

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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# Weekly Bulletin



# Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *Charles V. Chapin, M. D.*



Dr. Charles V. Chapin, to whom public health workers are largely indebted for present day methods in public health administration, died January 31st at the age of 85.

Dr. Chapin had served as superintendent of health In Providence, Rhode Island, from 1888 to 1932. It was Dr. Chapin who applied the theory, for the first time in this country, that infectious diseases are not air-borne. It was in the Providence City Hospital that many of his ideas in the care of communicable diseases were developed and put into practice. He was the author of "Sources and Modes of Infection," first published in 1912 and which rapidly became a standard text in the schools of public health throughout the United States.

Dr. Chapin was gifted with the faculty of making aphorisms in discussing communicable disease control. In discussing the transmission of typhoid fever he referred to "dirt, diarrhea and dinner." He also stated, "ptomaine poisoning is a good term to forget," and with regard to the control of measles, "no amount of isolation after the disease is recognized can atone for the harm done before diagnosis is made."

Dr. Chapin visited California more than 25 years ago while engaged in making a rapid survey of State health departments for the American Medical Association. At that time he was a thin, wiry, energetic individual with a deep, heavy voice—a man whose presence could never be forgotten. Perhaps Dr.

Chapin is best known for his popular dissertation on saliva as a factor in the spread of communicable diseases, which is quoted herewith:

"Not only is the saliva made use of for a great variety of purposes, and numberless articles are for one reason or another placed in the mouth, but, for no reason whatever, and all unconsciously, the fingers are with great frequency raised to the lips or the nose. Who can doubt that if the salivary glands secreted indigo the fingers would not continually be stained a deep blue, and who can doubt that if the nasal and oral secretions contain the germs of disease these germs will not be almost as constantly found upon the fingers? All successful commerce is reciprocal and in this universal trade in human saliva the fingers not only bring foreign secretions to the mouth of their owner, but there, exchanging it for his own, distribute the latter to everything that the hand touches. This happens not once, but scores and hundreds of times during the day's round of the individual. The cook spreads his saliva on the muffins and rolls, the waitress infects the glasses and spoons, the moistened fingers of the peddler arrange his fruit, the thumb of the milkman is in his measure, the reader moistens the pages of his book, the conductor his transfer tickets, the 'lady' the fingers of her glove. Everyone is busily engaged in this distribution of saliva, so that the end of each day finds this secretion freely distributed on the doors, window sills, furniture, and playthings in the home, the straps of trolley cars, the rails and counters and desks of shops and pub-

lic buildings, and, indeed, upon everything that the hands of man touch. What avails it if the pathogens do die quickly? A fresh supply is furnished each day. Besides the moistening of the fingers with saliva and the use of the common drinking cup, the mouth is put to numberless improper uses which may result in the spread of infection. It is used to hold pins, string, pencils, paper and money. The lips are used to moisten the pencil, to point the thread for the needle; to wet postage stamps and envelopes. Children 'swap' apples, cake, and lollipops, while men exchange their pipes and women their hatpins. Sometimes the mother is seen 'cleansing' the face of her child with her saliva-moistened handkerchief, and perhaps the visitor is shortly after invited to kiss the little one.

"Children have no instinct of cleanliness, and their faces, hands, toys, clothing, and everything that they touch must of necessity be continually daubed with the secretions of the nose and mouth. It is well known that children between the ages of two and eight years are more susceptible to scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, and whooping-cough than at other ages, and it may be that one reason for this is the great opportunity that is afforded by their habits at these ages for the transfer of the secretions. Infants do not, of course, mingle freely with one another, and older children do not come in close contact in their play, and they also begin to have a little idea of cleanliness."

#### **DEATH COMES TO DR. FRANK B. YOUNG**

Dr. Frank B. Young of Long Beach, a member of the California State Board of Public Health since June of 1940, died March 4th, following a stroke. Dr. Young came to Long Beach in 1930.

In Arkansas, he served as President of the State Board of Health, State Health Officer, Superintendent of the Arkansas Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and President of the Arkansas State Medical Society. He had the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the U. S. Navy Medical Corps.

Although Dr. Young has served as a member of the California State Board of Public Health for less than a year, he had developed a marked interest in the State public health organization and had contributed much toward the success of its present program. He will be sincerely missed by his colleagues and by staff members.

#### **DRS. SPRAGUE AND ROSSITER REAPPOINTED**

Dr. Norman P. Sprague of Los Angeles and Dr. V. A. Rossiter of Santa Ana, whose terms of office as members of the California State Board of Public Health expired January 15, 1941, have been reappointed by Governor Culbert L. Olson. The present terms will not expire until January 15, 1945.

#### **SACRAMENTO ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Sacramento City Health Department, Herbert F. True, M.D., Health Officer, has issued its annual report for the year ended June 30, 1940. The net per capita cost to taxpayers, after crediting revenues received from all departmental activities, was \$0.61. The actual per capita cost was \$1.57. Revenue from food and market inspection totaled almost \$62,000, and revenue from the division of sanitary inspection was almost \$14,000. The total cost of the department was \$166,831, with total revenues from all health activities reaching a total of \$101,875. The actual net cost of the entire Health Department was \$64,956.

Nearly all recognized standard public health activities were conducted during the year. No less than 38,451 treatments and examinations were given in city clinics. More than 36,000 examinations were made in the city laboratory. Extended activities were carried on by the division of food and market inspection, as well as the division of sanitation and housing. The division of public health nursing accomplished a large volume of work; the total number of communicable disease field visits was 5,156; field nursing visits in infant and preschool hygiene reached 3,022, and field nursing visits in school hygiene were 1,684. This represents but a limited portion of the activities undertaken by the public health nursing staff.

In accordance with the annual custom followed by Dr. True, a guest writer contributed a message in the annual report of the Sacramento City Health Department. The message this year was prepared by George Parrish, M.D., City Health Officer of Los Angeles and Past President of the Department of Health Officers of the League of California Cities. Under the title, "Public Health: The Great Influence of Civilization," Dr. Parrish writes:

"One of the most important factors in everybody's existence is public health. In its main aspects it is preventative, but in a very large field some parts of it are remedial. Without public health our large centers of population would be overwhelmed and dissipated almost in a day, and the modern organization of society would be altogether destroyed. The debt which we owe to the science of medicine is simply beyond computation and comprehension. What part the physician will play in the further advancement of the well-being of the world is an interesting speculation. No one can doubt that if humanity could be brought to a state of physical well-being, many of our social problems would disappear. Our vision would be clearer, our judgment more accurate and our moral power increased. It is to public health and

the medical profession, in its broadest sense, that the world may look for large contributions to its regeneration, physically, mentally and spiritually, when not force but reason will hold universal sway.

There is no finer page in the history of civilization than that which records advancements in medical science. History has painted in beautiful words many pictures of touching events and trying incidents in the lives of public health heroes. The members of the Sacramento Health Department are a part of this great group courageously and patiently working to the end that disease may be lessened, physical efficiency promoted and death postponed. I am proud of this opportunity to pay tribute to their accomplishments."

#### **EMERGENCY DISINFECTION OF WATER SUPPLIES**

Because of the unusually heavy rainfall and flooding of many rural districts, the purity of domestic water supplies in several sections of the State may be questioned. Dr. Bertram P. Brown, Director of the California State Department of Public Health, has sent the following suggestions to the health officers of California relative to precautions that should be taken to insure the purity of domestic water supplies in the emergency.

"In those areas of California where floods are imminent, many of you may find it advisable to issue orders to boil the drinking water when the drinking water is subjected to contamination by flood conditions.

The State Department of Public Health considers this a good precautionary measure and makes the following additional recommendations.

Wells not actually flooded are probably as safe as before high water. However, in case of doubt, wells can be disinfected.

After flood waters have ceased to overtop them, the flooded wells should be thoroughly pumped out until the water is clear.

Such flooded wells may also be disinfected for additional safety.

1. Add to the well one can (12 oz.) chloride of lime or one quart of any household disinfectant containing chlorine such as Clorox, Sani-Clor, Purex, et cetera.
2. Allow well to stand idle over night.
3. Pump out well again until odor and taste of chlorine disappear.

Well waters disinfected as herein outlined should be as safe as before the flood.

Water analyses will not be necessary."

#### **ALAMEDA COUNTY CONTROLS MOSQUITOES**

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, of which Harold F. Gray is the engineer, has issued its annual report for the calendar year 1940. The district is composed of the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Piedmont, Emeryville, San Leandro and Hayward, as well as the unincorporated territory within Eden and Washington townships, covers an area of 320 square miles and serves a population of 500,000. The activities of the district, for the fiscal year 1940-1941, cost one cent per \$100 of assessed valuation.

For the fourth consecutive year residents of Alameda County have enjoyed almost complete freedom from annoyance by salt marsh mosquitoes. Fresh water mosquitoes were more troublesome than previously, due to the abnormal rainfall in the early spring and unusually high humidity in September and early October. Special studies were made in order to determine if horse encephalomyelitis, which is presumably spread by mosquitoes, might be present within Alameda County. It was found that five cases of this disease in horses occurred in the district in July and September of 1940. All apparently occurred adjacent to or on marsh areas where a specific type of mosquito, believed to be the carrier of the disease, was breeding. Routine activities in ditching, drainage, oiling, burning, pumping and similar work were undertaken.

Superintendents of mosquito abatement districts and health officers, sanitary engineers and inspectors who are interested in mosquito control should have a copy of the annual report of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, in order to obtain the detailed and valuable information relative to essential procedures, costs, solutions of technical problems and other data that are of present day necessity in the successful maintenance of mosquito abatement.

#### **FROM THE MAIL BAG**

A student in a Florida school writes as follows:

"Will you be so kind as to give me the name of the disease that is most prevalent in your State, also where the State Sanitarium is located and some of the leading health resorts. And also if nature gives any help. This information is to be used in my school work."

Never attempt to bear more than one kind of trouble at once. Some people bear three kinds—all they had had, all they have now, and all they expect to have.—Edward E. Hale.

**MORBIDITY****Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending March 1, 1941****Chickenpox**

1014 cases: Alameda County 1, Albany 7, Berkeley 10, Oakland 46, Calaveras County 5, Fresno County 34, Fresno 7, Sanger 15, Eureka 9, Kern County 21, Bakersfield 1, Delano 1, Tehachapi 1, Kings County 7, Corcoran 1, Los Angeles County 70, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 9, Compton 2, Covina 1, Culver City 1, El Segundo 4, Glendale 13, Hermosa 11, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 104, Monrovia 3, Pasadena 16, Pomona 4, Redondo 1, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 6, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 7, Lynwood 2, South Gate 16, Monterey Park 3, Bell 2, Marin County 1, Merced County 20, Merced 7, Monterey County 8, Carmel 2, Napa 2, Orange County 22, Anaheim 7, Fullerton 5, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 20, La Habra 1, Tustin 1, Placer County 3, Riverside County 2, Blythe 1, Corona 2, Riverside 2, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento 38, San Bernardino County 8, Ontario 14, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 9, Coronado 3, El Cajon 3, National City 11, San Diego 91, San Francisco 73, San Joaquin County 27, Lodi 7, Stockton 18, San Luis Obispo County 7, Paso Robles 4, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara County 8, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 11, Santa Maria 7, Santa Clara County 10, San Jose 11, Santa Cruz 1, Watsonville 7, Siskiyou County 12, Solano County 2, Vallejo 6, Stanislaus County 15, Modesto 7, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 10, Sonora 1, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 1, Ventura 2, Yolo County 5, Winters 2, Woodland 4, Yuba County 1.

**Diphtheria**

13 cases: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 1, Ukiah 2, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, Stockton 3, Yolo County 1.

**German Measles**

499 cases: Alameda County 9, Berkeley 8, Livermore 3, Oakland 4, Piedmont 1, Pleasanton 5, Martinez 2, Fresno County 2, Fresno 9, Kingsburg 1, Inyo County 14, Kern County 1, Tehachapi 1, Kings County 1, Susanville 2, Los Angeles County 14, Alhambra 1, Compton 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 6, Huntington Park 5, Long Beach 59, Los Angeles 11, Pasadena 3, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 1, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 3, Madera 1, Monterey County 2, Monterey 3, Pacific Grove 3, Napa County 3, Napa 2, Orange County 5, Anaheim 2, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 3, Laguna Beach 1, Tustin 3, San Clemente 3, Elsinore 35, Perris 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 27, Coronado 9, Escondido 9, La Mesa 2, National City 21, Oceanside 2, San Diego 75, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 25, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 7, Shasta County 2, Siskiyou County 1, Solano County 3, Vallejo 2, Tulare County 2, Ventura County 1, Davis 3.

**Influenza**

676 cases: Berkeley 5, Oakland 1, Kern County 151, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 446, El Monte 3, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 37, Pasadena 1, San Gabriel 1, Torrance 1, Napa 1, Plumas County 2, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Indio 2, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 2, Lodi 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 3, Corning 3.

**Measles**

183 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 3, Piedmont 1, Williams 1, Placerville 1, Fresno 1, Kern County 7, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 20, Pomona 1, Monterey County 19, Salinas 2, Napa 1, Orange County 1, Brea 2, Fullerton 1, La Habra 1, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 1, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 3, San Diego County 3, Coronado 6, La Mesa 1, San Diego 6, San Francisco 4, San Luis Obispo 2, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Maria 1, Santa Cruz 12, Watsonville 1, Shasta County 3, Redding 5, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1, Tehama County 1, Red Bluff 2, Fillmore 1, Yolo County 1, Davis 1, Yuba County 1, California 1.\*

**Mumps**

526 cases: Oakland 22, San Leandro 1, Martinez 13, Pittsburg 2, Fresno County 1, Clovis 1, Inyo County 3, Kern County 38, Delano 7, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 54, El Segundo 3, Glendale 15, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 35, Monrovia 5, Montebello 9, Pasadena 4, Pomona 12, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 2, Torrance 1, Lynwood 3, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 5, Monterey Park 3, Bell 1, Sausalito 2, Merced County 2, Monterey County 3, Orange County 24, Huntington Beach 8, Santa Ana 6, La Habra 7, Riverside County 12, Corona 7, Indio 4, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 5, Ontario 4, San Diego County 4, Coronado 1, El Cajon 3, La Mesa 5, Oceanside 1, San Diego 64, San Francisco 19, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 2, San Jose 6, Santa Cruz County 2, Santa Cruz 1, Shasta County 2, Solano County 14, Stanislaus County 6, Corning 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 13, Visalia 3, Ventura County 3, Santa Paula 3, Ventura 2, Ojai 2, Winters 13.

**Pneumonia (Lobar)**

53 cases: Oakland 2, Calaveras County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 23, Pasadena 1, Monterey Park 1, Santa Ana 2, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

County 2, Sacramento 4, San Diego County 1, Coronado 1, San Francisco 2, San Luis Obispo County 2, Santa Paula 2, Woodland 1.

**Scarlet Fever**

143 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 4, Calaveras County 2, Angels Camp 1, Sanger 4, Humboldt County 1, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 1, Corcoran 2, Los Angeles County 13, Burbank 3, Compton 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 24, Pasadena 3, Santa Monica 2, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 2, Merced County 1, Mono County 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Blythe 1, Corona 1, Perris 1, Riverside 1, Indio 3, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 4, Ontario 1, San Diego County 1, Escondido 2, San Diego 11, San Francisco 9, San Joaquin County 3, Manteca 1, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Redwood City 1, San Carlos 1, Santa Clara County 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Watsonville 1, Siskiyou County 2, Solano County 1, Tulare County 4, Tuolumne County 2, Fillmore 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 2, Yuba County 1.

**Smallpox**

No cases reported.

**Typhoid Fever**

2 cases: Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 1.

**Whooping Cough**

370 cases: Alameda County 4, Berkeley 16, Livermore 3, Oakland 24, Piedmont 2, Pleasanton 2, Contra Costa County 4, Concord 11, Martinez 3, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 1, Kern County 8, Los Angeles County 37, Arcadia 1, El Monte 3, Hermosa 1, Inglewood 4, Long Beach 14, Los Angeles 34, Montebello 2, Pasadena 9, Redondo 4, Santa Monica 11, Torrance 1, Lynwood 4, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 1, Salinas 1, Napa County 2, Orange County 3, Anaheim 4, Huntington Beach 2, Orange 2, Santa Ana 4, La Habra 7, Corona 1, Riverside 1, Palm Springs 4, Sacramento 11, San Bernardino County 4, Colton 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 26, San Francisco 22, Lodi 6, Stockton 7, San Luis Obispo 3, Santa Barbara County 2, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz County 5, Santa Cruz 3, Redding 3, Solano County 8, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 15, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 4, Fillmore 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 2, Yuba County 1.

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

3 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 2.

**Dysentery (Bacillary)**

5 cases: Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Sacramento County 1.

**Leprosy**

One case: Dunsmuir.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

One case: Los Angeles.

**Poliomyelitis**

2 cases: Riverside County 1, San Bernardino County 1.

**Tetanus**

One case: Los Angeles.

**Encephalitis (Epidemic)**

One case: Fresno County.

**Trichinosis**

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1.

**Typhus Fever**

One case: Los Angeles County.

**Food Poisoning**

8 cases: Fresno 3, San Francisco 5.

**Undulant Fever**

5 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1, Pomona 1, Laguna Beach 1, Ventura County 1.

**Tularemia**

One case: San Diego.

**Actinomycosis**

One case: Stockton.

**Coccidioidal Granuloma**

2 cases: Kern County 1, Tulare County 1.

**Septic Sore Throat**

One case: Kings County.

**Epilepsy**

29 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 16, Pasadena 1, Bell 1, Napa County 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, South San Francisco 1.

**Epidemic Diarrhea of the Newborn**

8 cases: Pasadena.

**Rabies (Animal)**

9 cases: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Burbank 1, Monterey 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 3, National City 1.

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